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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0000053771	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/07983	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 23.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A01N43/80		
Applicant BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I  Basis of the opinion
  - II  Priority
  - III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV  Lack of unity of Invention
  - V  Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI  Certain documents cited
  - VII  Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19.12.2003	Date of completion of this report 25.08.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Fort, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4123



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07983

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-46 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-32 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07983

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-32
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	12-26 and 28
	No: Claims	1-11, 27, 29-32
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-32
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07983

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

D1 (D1= WO 99/65314) discloses synergistic herbicidal compositions containing a 3-heterocyclic-substituted benzoyl derivative of formula (I) and Imazapyr, Imazamethabenz or Imazethapyr. The herbicidal mixtures according to independent claim 1 differ from the compositions described in D1 in that the compositions of the present invention comprise at least two imidazolinone compounds. The mixture according to claims 12-26 and 28 further comprises a compound c). Thus the claimed subject-matter of 1-32 is novel vis-à-vis D1 (Art. 33(2) PCT).

Given the teaching of D1 which is considered as the closest prior art, the problem underlying the present invention may be seen as that of providing synergistic compositions having improved herbicidal activity.

In the absence of comparison with the compositions containing a compound of formula (I) and one single imidazolinone compound described in D1, no unexpected effect resulting from the use of a mixture of two imidazolinone compounds (B) has been demonstrated. Thus the subject-matter of claims 1-11, 27, 29-32 cannot be considered as being inventive (Art. 33(3) PCT).

The quaternary mixtures according to claims 12-26 and 28 can be considered as being inventive since the mixtures containing a component C show a synergistic herbicidal effect.

The subject-matter of claims 1-32 is considered to be industrially applicable and the present application is therefore considered to satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(4) PCT.

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